

Happy Birding Virginia!

From lofty mountains in the west to sandy shores in the east, the Commonwealth of Virginia provides exceptional habitat for over 400 species of breeding, wintering and migrating birds. Some of these birds, like the Northern Bobwhite, may spend their entire year here in Virginia, breeding and wintering in appropriate habitats. Other species like the Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush fly all the way from South and Central America to breed here in the spring and summer before heading south again in the fall. Finally, some birds like the Bay-breasted Warbler simply stop in Virginia on their way north and south each migration season, utilizing the Commonwealth's natural habitats as a critical resting place and fuel stop as they complete thousands of migration miles.

Bird watching, or birding, is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities in America. What could beat taking a stroll in your local park, listening to the singing birds and looking for the rarities that may be lurking about? Fortunately for Virginians, 18 out of the Commonwealth's 20 Important Bird Areas are accessible by foot and sometimes by bike and even canoe. This brochure has been designed to show you the most easily accessible birding locations in each of Virginia's IBAs.

Please visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail website at www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/ to find out more information about each birding site, including directions, site descriptions, access fee information and contacts.

And for more information on the Virginia Important Bird Areas Program, please visit:
www.audubon.org/bird/iba/virginia.

What is an IBA?

Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. IBAs may be a few acres or thousands of acres, but usually they are discrete sites that stand out from the surrounding landscape.

IBAs may include public or private lands, or both, and they may be protected or unprotected. Sites can qualify because they contain species that may be of conservation concern for various reasons: individual species that may be threatened or endangered; species that are not widely distributed and thus have a concentrated population in one specific habitat type; or perhaps groups of similar species that are vulnerable because they occur at high densities at a particular location.

What You Can Do To Help!

Volunteer:

www.audubon.org/bird/iba/virginia

Virginia IBA Contact:

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BIRD WATCHING in Virginia's

IBAs

Important Bird Areas



Audubon



Audubon Virginia Important Bird Areas Access

1. Allegheny Highlands
2. Back Bay
3. Barrier Island Lagoon System
4. Central Piedmont
5. Chesapeake Bay Islands
6. Culpeper Basin
7. Delmarva Bayside Marshes
8. Great Dismal Swamp
9. Lower Delmarva
10. Lower James River
11. Lower Potomac River
12. Lower Rappahannock River
13. Mattaponi and Pamunkey
14. Mount Rogers-Whitetop Mountain
15. Pine Mountain
16. Powell and Stone Mountains
17. Upper Blue Ridge Mountains
18. Western Shore Marshes

*Note:

Piney Grove
& Radford Army
Ammunition Plant
IBAs are not included
due to accessibility issues

18. Western Shore Marshes

Birds: Least Tern, American Oystercatcher, Chuck-will's-widow

Access: Grandview Nature Preserve

12. Lower Rappahannock River

Birds: N. Bobwhite, Rusty Blackbird, Bald Eagle

Access: Land's End WMA, Rappahannock River Valley NWR - Wilna Unit

13. Mattaponi and Pamunkey

Birds: Rusty Blackbird, King Rail, Bald Eagle

Access: TNC Cumberland Marsh Preserve, Waterfence Landing, Walkerton Landing

10. Lower James River

Birds: Bald Eagle, Am. Black Duck, Prothonotary Warbler, Wood Thrush. **Access:** Dutch Gap C. Area, Harrison Lake N. Fish Hatchery, Deep Bottom Park

17. Upper Blue Ridge Mountains

Birds: Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush. **Access:** Spruce Creek Park, Shenandoah Nat. Park, Blue Ridge Parkway

11. Lower Potomac River

Birds: Northern Bobwhite, Rusty Blackbird, Bald Eagle. **Access:** Meadowood Special Rec. Area, Occoquan Bay NWR, Mason Neck State Park

1. Allegheny Highlands

Birds: Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler
Access: Highland WMA - Jack Mountain

6. Culpeper Basin

Birds: Northern Bobwhite, Prairie Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker
Access: C.M. Crockett Park, John Marshall Park

15. Pine Mountain

Birds: Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler. **Access:** Breaks Interstate Park, Branham Farm Wildlife Area

4. Central Piedmont

Birds: Prairie Warbler, N. Bobwhite, Wood Thrush
Access: James River State Park, James River WMA, Cumberland State Forest

16. Powell and Stone Mountains

Birds: Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler. **Access:** Legion Park Trail, High Knob Recreation Area, Gladys Fork Wetland

14. Mount Rogers-Whitetop Mt.

Birds: Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush, Winter Wren
Access: Grayson Highlands State Park

8. Great Dismal Swamp

Birds: Prothonotary Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Swainson's Warbler. **Access:** Jericho Ditch at GDS NWR, Washington Ditch at GDS NWR

5. Chesapeake Bay Islands

Birds: Seaside Sparrow, Royal Tern, Forster's Tern
Access: Tangier Island

3. Barrier Island Lagoon System

Birds: Piping Plover, Least Tern, Black Skimmer.
Access: Chincoteague NWR, Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR

9. Lower Delmarva

Birds: Clapper Rail, Red-throated Loon, American Oystercatcher
Access: Kiptopeke State Park

7. Delmarva Bayside Marshes

Birds: Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, American Black Duck
Access: Saxis WMA, Guard Shore

2. Back Bay

Birds: King Rail, Least Bittern, Brown-headed Nuthatch
Access: Back Bay NWR, False Cape State Park



<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/>

